

Later there was such a large flight of *P. nr. intermedius* that about 60 were caught. Half of them were placed in a milliliter of about 90% ethyl alcohol; the other half, in the same amount of linseed oil. Two days afterward a drop of liquid from each vial was placed on the forearm. The alcohol caused no blister; the linseed oil caused a large blister.

All three species of *Paederus* have been mounted, in the same manner, and kept in the same box. The two species that did not cause blisters have molded heavily; the other species shows no trace of mold.

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## AN ABNORMAL MATING RESPONSE AMONG LAMPYRIDS

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Ordinarily the quite specific flash-and-response mating signal system of the Lampyridae would seem to prevent any extensive cross-breeding. However, they occasionally make mistakes. One of the most peculiar of these was observed near Newark, Del., on June 8, 1951. What was at first assumed to be a female of *Photuris hebes* responding to the flashes of two males of that species, abundant in the adjoining field, in foot-high grass along the roadside, proved to be a very gravid female of *Photinus scintillans*. No males of *scintillans* were seen at the time, which was well in advance of the usual prevalence of this species, but both sexes were abundant in the same locality a month later. It is peculiar that the males of *hebes*, which give a rather greenish flash, should be attracted by the distinctly orange-colored flash of *scintillans*.

A single large male of *P. scintillans* was collected in early May in Wilmington some years ago, and identified by H. S. Barber.